

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY


PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P27273PC00		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/IB2004/052715		International filing date (day/month/year) 08.12.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.12.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G08G1/09				
Applicant MODULAR TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEMS (PTY) LIMITED et al.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 07.10.2005		Date of completion of this report 10.11.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer Wagner, U Telephone No. +49 89 2399-		



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/052715

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-16 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-6,13-16
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	7-12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:

- D1: AU 64248 80 A (SPIRA, H.E) 21 May 1981 (1981-05-21)
- D2: US-A-5 986 576 (ARMSTRONG ET AL) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16)
- D3: US-A-4 747 725 (GEBELIUS ET AL) 31 May 1988 (1988-05-31)
- D4: GR-B-1 002 467 (VIEREX AVE - EFARMOSMENES ILEKTROMETALLIKES KATASKEVES ANONYMI) 8 November 1996 (1996-11-08)
- D5: US 2001/054970 A1 (JONES RICHARD D) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27)
- D6: DE 30 11 644 A1 (GEBRUEDER STOYE GMBH; GEBRUEDER STOYE GMBH, 5000 KOELN, DE) 1 October 1981 (1981-10-01)

2 Novelty of the claims, Art. 33(1) and (2) PCT

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses all the features of claim 1, see fig.1.

Furthermore, also the features of claims 2-6 and 16 are anticipated by D1, see in particular the shape of the pole modules in figure 1 and 3, which clearly show a neck and collar formation.

2.2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 13 and 15 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D2 discloses the features of claim 1 together with the features of these claims 13-15, see column 3, lines 28-53.

3 Inventive step of the claims, Art. 33(1) and (3) PCT

The remaining claims are new, but lack an inventive step, as defined in Art. 33(3) PCT, since their features are known from the other documents cited in the search report.

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(SEPARATE SHEET)**

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- 3.1 The feature of a securing line is known from D3, see figure 3 and 4.
- 3.2 The features of clamping the traffic light between formations extending outwards from the light connector is in principal known from D4. To give these extensions the form of lips would then be obvious to a skilled person, since it increases the holding force of the arrangement.
- 3.3 The feature of arranging a number of sockets in an adaptor is known from D5.
- 3.4 A combination of either D1 or D2 with any of these documents would bring a skilled person to the features of the dependent claims, respectively.